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JAPAN.

Reports from Yokohama—Sanitary conditions good—Plague in Formosa.

Assistant Surgeon Moore reports, January 29 and 30, as follows:

During the week ended January 23, 1904, bills of health were issued to three vessels having a total personnel of 228 crew and 137 passengers.

Though no official reports covering the above period have been received, this city, as well as the other principal ports of the Empire, is believed to continue in good sanitary condition. Plague still exists in Formosa, though the principal port of that island, Kelung, is said to be noninfected at present.

During the week ended January 30, 1904, two vessels having an aggregate personnel of 236 crew and 601 passengers were inspected. During the week ended January 23, cases of communicable disease were reported in Yokohama as follows: Enteric fever, 2 cases, 1 death; diphtheria, 3 cases, 1 death; dysentery, 1 case, no deaths. During the week ended January 30, 3 cases of enteric fever with no deaths and 2 cases of diphtheria with 1 death were reported. From a quarantine standpoint the sanitary condition of Japan remains good.

Immigrants for Honolulu recommended for rejection.

Number of immigrants for Honolulu per steamship *China*, January 30, for rejection, 7.

PANAMA.

Report from city of Panama—Inspection of vessels—Mortality statistics.

Assistant Surgeon Pierce reports, February 15, as follows:

During the week ended February 14 three vessels cleared, as follows: The steamship *Peru*, for San Francisco; officers and crew, 78; passengers, 17; total, 95; all well.

The auxiliary schooner *Rose Marine*, for San Francisco; officers and crew, 14; passengers, 7. This is a private yacht and was in the bay three days only.

The bark *Pass of Lenny*; officers and crew, 20. This vessel discharged her cargo into lighters in the bay.

During the week there were from all causes in the city 21 deaths.

The following are the causes given in the official records: Stillborn, 2; abscess, 1; phthisis, 3; dementia, 1; gastro-enteritis, 1; dropped dead, 1; tuberculosis, 2; bronchitis, 2; liver disease, 1; accidental fall, 1; tetanus, 1; fevers, 3; pneumonia, 1; colic, 1.

There have been no deaths from quarantinable disease since January 14, unless some of the cases diagnosed fevers are from yellow fever.

Report from Colon—Precautions against importation of plague from San Pedro, Peru.

Passed Assistant Surgeon Perry reports, February 16, as follows: Plague has appeared at San Pedro, Peru. This town is situated near Pacasmayo, a port at which vessels sailing for Panama call for cargo and passengers. The time consumed by voyage from Pacasmayo to Panama is six days.

The disease was reported on February 12, and to that date there had been 20 cases, with 11 deaths.

Relative to the danger to the Isthmus as a result of the commerce between Pacasmayo and Panama, two vessels a week is the number making such calls. An inquiry into the nature of the cargo taken on at Pacasmayo shows that it consists almost exclusively of rice and sugar, and is, in my opinion, safe. Furthermore, on account of the poor harbor, the bay is generally rough and the cargo is taken from lighters at a distance from the wharves. I was unable to ascertain the number of passengers embarked at that port, but believe they are few.

The inspector-general of public health for the Republic of Panama endeavored to have some uniform quarantine regulations promulgated by the board of health, and requested that the necessary quarantine measures be placed under his direction, but he failed in this and the board adopted the principle of passing upon each vessel after an examination of the ship's papers at a session of the board of health convened for the purpose, the ship in the meantime being held in quarantine pending decision of the board. The inspector-general intends to make another attempt to have specific quarantine regulations promulgated, the proper enforcement of which to be under his direction. If the latter is accomplished, Asst. Surg. C. C. Pierce will act as an adviser in order that the proper measures may be enforced.

There are practically no quarantine facilities for treating an infected vessel that may arrive at the port of Panama, such as exist having already been described in Assistant Surgeon Pierce's report on Panama.^a I inspected the plant while there and found that the quarantine vessel would be ample for detaining a limited number of passengers, that a compartment could be utilized for disinfecting the clothing by means of formaldehyde gas, the local authorities already possessing an autoclave, and that if it became necessary to disinfect for the purpose of killing rats it could be accomplished by the pot method of burning sulphur. I gave the proper suggestions to the inspector-general, and if it became necessary to perform disinfection I think it will be done according to the methods suggested by Assistant Surgeon Pierce.

I was told by the agents of the vessels sailing from South American ports to Panama that on account of the uncertainty of the quarantine that would be imposed by the Panama authorities the port of Pacasmayo would be omitted from the ports of call of the vessels until the plague had been eradicated from that vicinity. If so the problem is solved and no danger to Panama exists on account of plague in San Pedro. * * *

PHILIPPINE ISLANDS.

Report from Manila—Quarantinable diseases—Fumigation of vessels.

Chief Quarantine Officer Heiser reports, January 22, as follows:

The number of quarantinable diseases reported in Manila during the week ended January 16, 1904, is as follows:

	Cases.	Deaths.
Cholera	0	0
Smallpox	0	0
Plague	5	4

^aSee Public Health Reports, February 19, 1904.